

**From:** Dale Hawkins  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 11:30am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Hello. I am writing to express my discontent with the Microsoft settlement. I am especially concerned with the inability to read, edit, or otherwise interact with various Microsoft document formats without the use of Microsoft's proprietary tools. This effectively limits the ability of myself and other consumers to choose an alternative computing platform. In effect, people are "locked-in" because of the vast amounts of personal data which is only available through their continued use of Microsoft products. Furthermore, with the "creative" licensing proposed with Microsoft's latest operating systems, the customer is at an even greater risk of his or her data becoming inaccessible without renewing various licenses on a regular basis.

In essence, forcing a disclosure of the various document formats seems to be one of the few alternatives to countering the current monopoly status of the Microsoft corporation.

Thank you,

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